

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:DJONES

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:JHOGANSON

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R 082011Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 085102

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESS HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL RPT ASMARA 0304 ACTION SECSTATE ROME INFO ADDIS ABABA
KHARTOUM 081200Z APR QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0304

EXDIS

DEPT PASS USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: DEBRIEFING OF RELEASED ERITREAN KIDNAP VICTIMS

REF: ASMARA 0303 (DTG 081150Z APR 76)

1. AS STATED REFTTEL, ITALIAN CONSUL IN ASMARA HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DEBRIEF ERITREAN KIDNAP VICTIM FALASCHI WHO WAS HELD FOR THREE MONTHS BY PLF AND RELEASED IN FEBRUARY. BEYOND WHATEVER INFORMATION FALASCHI, WHO IS TEACHING AT SECONDARY SCHOOL IN ROME, MIGHT BE ABLE PROVIDE ON AMERICAN HOSTAGES STILL HELD BY PLF, HE COULD PROVE INVALUABLE SOURCE ON SURGENT CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS. HE MAY HAVE INSIGHTS INTO PLF ATTITUDES ON EFFICACY OF KIDNAPPING AS POLITICAL WEAPON AND PARTICULARLY ON THEIR CURRENT ATTITUDES TOWARD AMERICANS. LIKewise, HE COULD
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PROVIDE INFORMATION ON WEAPONRY AND ORDER OF BATTLE ON HIS

CAPTORS.

2. CONGEN MUST ASSUME THAT FORMER AMERICAN HOSTAGES STRICKLAND AND BOWIDOWICZ HAVE BEEN DEBRIEFED AND INFORMATION COMPILED AND DISTRIBUTED. WE HAVE YET TO RECEIVE SUCH INFORMATION. IN ADDITION TO ALL TYPES OF INFORMATION CITED ABOVE, RELEASED HOSTAGES COULD FURNISH INVALUABLE INTELLIGENCE WHICH WOULD ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF THE 57 AMERICANS REMAINING IN ASMARA.

3. PLEASE ADVISE WHAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO DEBRIEF FALASCHI IN ROME, AND WHAT DISTRIBUTION HAS BEEN MADE OF STRICKLAND AND BOWIDOWICZ DEBRIEFING. NEEDLESS TO SAY, CONGEN EXTREMELY INTERESTED IN RECEIVING COPIES.

SHERRY UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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